(c) the details of funds granted and utilized in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) No Telephone Exchanges in Arunachal Pradesh have been converted into electronic exchanges during last three years, as all the exchanges are already electronic exchanges.

Bringing TRAI under CAG

1921. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the larger interests of the public, out of whose money regulatory bodies that have been created, there is a move to bring the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) within the ambit of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India;

(b) whether TRAI had consistently remained passive on crucial matters like grey market calls causing loss to the public exchequer by declining to adjudicate complaints from BSNL and on the creation of Universal Service Fund to implement rural telecom projects; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is within the ambit of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) by virtue of sub-section 2 and 3 of Section 23 of the TRAI Act under which C&AG audit the accounts of TRAI.

(b) and (c) Under the TRAI Act, TRAI can investigate complaints but it does not have powers to adjudicate on complaints.

Universal Service Obligation Fund (USO Fund) was created by the Central Government in April, 2002 on the basis of the recommendations received from TRAI.

Surrender of telephones

1922 SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of landline telephone connections surrendered by the subscribers of both MTNL and BSNL till March, 2005;